

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Clarence and Louise Golden Williams House

2. Location: 2211 Norwood Avenue, Savannah, Chatham County

3a. Description: The Clarence and Louise Golden Williams House is a small, one-story concrete block front-gable bungalow located at 2211 Norwood Avenue in Sandfly – a late 19th/early 20th century African American community located on the outskirts of Savannah near the Isle of Hope in Chatham County, Georgia. The house has a standing seam roof, exposed rafter ends, 6/6 wood windows, and a stucco masonry exterior. A nearly full-width porch spans the front. Elaborate embellishment decorates the house including quoining, textured stucco finishes, oyster shells, sculptural patterns, false timbering in the gable ends and symbolic geometric patterns based on West African cultural and architectural traditions. The interior features Eurocentric plasterwork such as sculptural archways between major rooms and decorative ceiling medallions. When built c.1945 the home had a living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, and one bathroom. A portion of the porch was enclosed and the kitchen was expanded in the 1950s and a third bedroom was added in the 1970s. In 2020 the house underwent a complete rehabilitation. The roof was repaired, and the dining room ceiling and hard wood floors were replaced. Double-hung, 6/6 wood windows matching the remaining original windows replaced non-historic metal windows. The house is in excellent condition and retains a good degree of integrity.

3b. Period of Significance: 1945-1970

3c. Acreage: Less than one acre

3d. Boundary Explanation: The proposed boundary is the current legal boundary associated with the house.

4a. National Register Criteria: C

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Art and Ethnic Heritage: African American

4c. Statement of Significance: Sandfly was settled during the late-19th century by former slaves of nearby plantations, particularly Wormsloe. Descendants of the enslaved learned crafts their forbearers garnered such as painting, carpentry, plumbing, and brick masonry. The second and third generation tradesmen also trained at Georgia State College (now Savannah State University). Plasterers, carpenters, and bricklayers employed during the week in surrounding communities came together on the weekends to build houses for each other. The Clarence and Louise Golden Williams House is significant under Criterion C in the areas of Art and Ethnic Heritage: African American as an excellent representative example of the builder-artisan tradition of decorative plasterwork and architectural design passed down by generations of tradesman in the post-Reconstruction era community of Sandfly. The house is an example of the simple, one-story vernacular dwellings built by Sandfly craftsman during the late-19th to mid-20th centuries. The exterior stucco patterns and decorative interior plasterwork exemplify the craftsmanship of its original owner and builder, master plasterer Clarence Williams. The interior of the house reflects the Eurocentric plasterwork details that Williams routinely used in his everyday trade as a subcontractor on construction sites throughout White Savannah neighborhoods. The exterior of the house, particularly the porch, reflects Williams most artistic application of his craft, featuring elaborate stucco ornamentation including quoining, textured stucco finishes, laid-in oyster shells, sculptural patterns, and false timbering in the gable ends. Some of the ornamentation includes symbolic geometric patterns based on West African cultural and architectural traditions that were common to the Igbo and other African peoples. This outward expression of African art and culture as expressed in Williams' stuccowork is unique to the Williams House in Sandfly and the surrounding area.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The Clarence and Louise Golden Williams House is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the areas of Art and Ethnic Heritage: African American as an excellent example of the builder-artisan tradition and design passed down by generations of tradesman in the post-Reconstruction era community of Sandfly.

5. Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored by the property owner, and nomination materials were prepared by Robert A. Ciucevich of Quatrefoil Historic Preservation Consulting.